



## A JOURNAL AND TRAVEL OF JAMES MEACHAM

### Part I. May 19 to Aug. 31, 1789.\*

May 19. Tues. This morning my all lies in the hand of my Glorious Master. I think since God thrust me out in to his vineyard which was October 1787, I have travelled extensively—First, I travelled one Quarter in Sussex Circuit in Virginia—from thence to Oronoque Ct Northcarolina where I stayed about 5 months—here the Lord wonderfully carried on the work of regeneration. From thence to Bartie Ct (in the same State) here I was much afflicted but travelled about 6 months in these parts. Many Soules were brought to God. From thence I removed into Hanover Ct Virginia where God remarkably revived his work and from Conference April 20 I was sent into Grensville Circuit Virginia. Now I believe my poor Soul is taken another wing for Heaven. Lord give more grace.

Wed. 20. To-day I preached to a small concourse of People, my idiars is but shallow yet I trust there was a word dropt in Season, Lord let fruit thereof be found at the last day.

\* Rev. James Meacham, the author of the following diary, was born in Sussex County, Virginia, April 7, 1763. He was the son of Joshua and Anne Lee Meacham, his mother being a relative of Richard Henry Lee. According to family tradition he served in the Revolutionary War, and the papers in evidence of this were destroyed by fire. In the fly-leaf of the diary he says he was "born of the spirit April 14, 1787, and began to travel on the Itinerant plan with the Methodist Oct. 1, 1787." However, the Conference Minutes show that he was admitted on trial in 1788, and into full connection in 1790, being assigned in the latter year to Orange Circuit. In 1791 he was ordained Elder but served Williamsburg Circuit that year, Pamunkey Circuit in 1792, Mecklenburg Circuit in 1793, and Portsmouth Circuit in 1794. In 1795 he was appointed Presiding Elder to the Gullford District, and to the Tar River District in 1796. In 1797 he was located, having married Mary Seward, of White Plains, Brunswick Co. To them nine children were born. In 1820 James Meacham died in Mecklenburg County, Virginia.

The diary will prove of value to all who are interested in early Methodism in the United States. Of especial interest is its strong anti-slavery feeling. "O America, America, blood and oppression will be thy overthrow," exclaims the author, and the sentiment is reiterated several times. Quite in harmony with it is the fact that James Meacham was never happier than when preaching to the blacks.

The author of the diary was also a personal friend and admirer of Rev. James O'Kelly; indeed he seems to have travelled some circuits in O'Kelly's district before he was admitted on trial in 1788.

For securing the diary The Trinity College Historical Society is indebted to Rev. W. W. Rose of the North Carolina Conference. The part between September, 1789, and July, 1791, has been lost. In hope that it may be found, the division of the diary into two parts has been made, part II to be published in the next series of Historical Papers.—WM. K. BOYD.

Thur 21. This day I met a small congregation, but little or no liberty in speaking unto them—this remark is hard to account (for) for about three years ago this part of Melenburg County was the flower of Virginia for Religion but now coldness and Dullness seems to overshadow the people, if I may be allowed my sentiment is this—that hateful bloody name of oppression, I say the spirit of blood, kills the life of love and liberty.

Fri. 22. I preached with but little liberty. I met the class, here the Lord wonderfully met with us; after meeting this, I met the Childrens class, separately by themselves. O how tender their little hearts was, a time of spilling of tears—Lord give great success to this constitution.

Sat. 23. This morning I rode to my appointment, brother and Sister Taylor with me. Now the Lord began to break asunder the clouds of Unbelief. this was a time of grace.

Sun. 24. This Sabbath I met a larg concourse of people. the power of God was upon the people—weeping was on every Side. I hope the Lord will carry on the glorious worke of Methodism.

Mon. 25. Here I met a small concourse of dear people waiting to hear the word of the Lord. To whom I cried ye will not come to me that ye might have life! Weeping all around, by this time Hell had call up her forces and made a bold attack upon Israel's camp and began to drag out the Slain in Zion by force, our united cries repetedly was extorted for her Soul (a young Woman) until Satan made a small retreat then we boldly marched forward, and took the slain (or wounded again). O the cries that she extorted was enough to reach the heart of the most obdurate. Lord give deliverance to the oppressed.

Tues. 26. Nothing great here, Lord revive thy work.

Wed. 27. This day I preached to a happy people.

Thur. 28. Here I met with some few good Christians  
I hope—before preaching began old bro. Melone came up



stares, to me and opened his heart freely. I believe it is an honest one. Slavery he abominates

Fri. 29. the strength of my body failes. I preached with much pain of body—I met the Society then the Children. O that God may give us success in this and every point of Christian devotion.

Sat. 30. this day I preached to a small attentive Congregation of People, in the Evening rode home with Old Bro. O. Myrick of Brunswick County—it is something amazing, I think, he is now with his wife a numerous Age, without any Child, an immense Fortune and yet is as Bloody oppressor perhaps as may be found, we have had a little Conjecture upon Slavery, but to no Satisfaction at all. O how much good might this man do for God,—but perhaps it may be said Tush God doth doth not regard.—Or foolishly immagins in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it. Psa. 10-11. But when the Lord maketh inquisition for blood, he remembered them. He forgetteth not the cry of the poor Humble (or) oppressed. Psa. 9-12.

Sun. 31. This day I found a large assembly of people awaiting for me to which I cryed What is man that thou art mindful of him or the Son of Man that thou so visitest him? uncommon attention overshadowed the people. Nothing great only some few outcries for Mercy.

Mon. June 1. this Day I think we had a Smart war, our Enemies seemed to get ground; but when Israel prevailed, the little camp went forward. Several persecutors Slain, and boldly cryed Men and Brethren what Shall I do to be Saved. Some found refuge in the blood of Christ.

Tues. 2, here I meet with our Bro. Lewis Griggs, who was once an Itinerant preacher in the work of Methodism, but now Locative, he stood in my place and preached from I Ep 3-22 Beloved, Now are we the Sons of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that, when he shall appear, we Shall be like him, for we Shall see him.

as he is. A time of Rejoicing among the Saints, Some few a crying for Mercy; in the Evening we had Meeting. I sang and prayed, by this time crying was on every Side, after 3 Hours struggling in earnest prayer the Lord set 2 Souls at liberty to praise him.

Wednesday 3, this day I find but cold encouragment.

Thursday 4 Here I met a Small congregation—little or no Stir. the Class in this place (I fear) is about to be broken—the Devil is about to sow the Seed of Discord among the Bretheren.

Friday 5, this Day I preached a Funeral Sermon over a little babe near Bartie, where I had formerly rode in time past. Many of the Dear Bartie Bretheren came to hear me, a time of Love and Happiness, great was my consolation to find so many of my Bretheren in the lord was yet on their journey home; in the Evening I rode home with Sister Saurey in Bartie Ct—where I met near two hundred precious Souls, only hearing I was coming, to tarry one evening. I called unto them for Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ etc—a time long to be remembered I hope with many; here I met with a poor Backsliding Sister. My face was a terror to her. I began to Labour with her, and to remind her of the Goodness of God in once pardoning her Sins; the Tears began to fall down her poor Blushing face. While I was preaching I called out upon the Backsliders and bad them venture the second time upon Jesus, that he was still on his Mercy Seat interceeding for them, that he had there a massy Crown of Glory for them if they would but come. Conviction fastened upon her Soul, but cried the Dove of Heaven was Shut against her. I told her ventur her Soul on him, he had promised to heal the Backsliders and love them freely.—the Congregation broke. She still continued to cry in the Bitterness of her Soul, Lord wilt thou love a Backslider—I thought prayer might prevail on God. I Called upon the brethern for prayer. The Lord soon came and broke every chain and set her at liberty to praise his

Glorious Name. O may She ever Stand faithful unto the end.

Sat. 6. This Morning I feel the infirmities of my poor body almost too great for me to labour. I rode for 9 miles in much pain of body where I found a few Souls awaiting for me. I Spoke from these words of St. Paul: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus &c. The Lord was present with us.

Sun. 7. this day I preached to a large concourse of people. The power of God was much upon them. Shouts and cries to be herd on every side.—I strove to meet the Class, but could not, the Lord would not let me, he willed the people should praise him. Several join'd Society.

Mond. 8. the great power of the Lord was with us—a time of melting love.

Tues. 9. Rode to Smiths Church in Northampton County Northcarolina, in this place the Gospel is preached in So many Different lights, that the Devil Sows the Seed of Discord, to the great and unhappy Spoil of Methodism; a few precious Souls met me, to whome I cryed, Submit yourselves to God and, Satra! weeping was on every Side, but how long will these impressions last.—For the Fruit of Righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace: James 3/18

Wed. 10. the Glory of the Lord appears, my Soul is Kept in peace thro Jesus.—

Thur. 11. This day the Lord met with his people.

Frid. 12. I met at this place some of my Strange Brethren in the flesh, with Several other of the Oronoque Brethren, where I had an Opportunity of hearing from the work of the Lord in that part—(in) almost every Quarter of the Earth, in America the Glorious work of Methodism Seems to prosper.—I preached to this people at 11 Oclock, as I expected to preach again at 5 about 8 Miles above.—the Lord with power applied the Truth to the hearts of the Dear people. Several down whose cry was for Mercy. About 2 I left them after meeting of large Society. Thro much pain



I got to my second appointment where I found a little solemn attentive concourse of people to whom I cried, He that cometh to God must believe that He is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Uncommon attention but no greater good perceivably done, by this my poor Nerves and whole system was relxt. Lord how is it, that my bodily Strength is so extraordinary.

Sat. 13. Bless God, his work seems to move progressively on. In the evening word came that I was to meet brother Paup at Bro. Myricks at his Evening Meeting. I attended but he never came. I endeavored to prove that the Son of Man came to Seek and to save that which was lost. I felt a heart full of love, for the dear People, but I know not whether there was any good done or not.

Sun. 14. I set out early for my next appointment (by the way I met with Bro. Paup, which gave me much Satisfaction,) at Oronoque Chapl. where the people in general flocks out to hear the Word of the Lord. I expect this Day will be held in remembrance thro Eternity, Several Souls Born to God; in the evening I rode 10 Miles and spoke to the dear Black Bretheren, which my Soul Delights to do. (Several White Bretheren came also) the Lord Jehovah was present to help in time of Need. I think a time of sweeter power I never saw. Several Souls I trust powerfully delivered from the Bondage of Eniquity.

Mon. 15. this day I preached a Funeral Sermon over Mr. W. on the South side Oronoque in Melenburge Co'y. I disremember whether ever I spoke to more attentive people in my travels or not, but no other incouragement. yet perceivable, God I believe stood uncommonly near to help the willing in heart; after Preach'g rode home with Sister Elexander, a Comfortable place for the poor Body. O how weak and feeble is my poor System. Lord, Strengthen thy Stripling, make him humble and faithful.

Tues. 16. this day I met a melting congregation of people, the Aweful presence of God was sweetly with us.—I

met the Class there, proceeded to speak to all such as was not of our Society, as is my general rule While I was Speak'g to a young Woman, beging her never to persecute the people of God again, her heart bursted into an Agony of Distress, the Dear Lord speedily came to her relief. In a few Moments a poor Backslider Professed to be reclaimed. My Soul Rejoices every hour of my life when Zion Prospers.

Wed. 17. this Day I thank God, his dear presence was in every heart almost; in the Evening we had a comfortable Prayer Meeting. my Soul grows in Grace Daily, bless God.

Thur. 18. Rode 10 or 12 miles where I met a few Solemn People, a time of love, one Soul born to God, in the Evening Watch or night an uncommon power of Darkness oppos'd us. Several Mourners, but no deliverance.

Fri. 19. a small concourse of people. I strove to meet the Class. O how sweet the Lord filled my cup.—O for more faith and love, at the feet of my Master I dedicate my little all.

Sat. 20 this day my Soul feels grief from Various Quarters. 1. Satan hath Defiled some of the dear children of God 2, an Uncommon coldness among the Bretheren. O how short the Professors of Godliness are of Watching unto Prayer and continuing in the same with Thanksgiving—in the evening held Meeting at a Neighboring Sisters House, the Prayers of the Saints was Jointly sent up to God. We had a little Time of love.

Sun. 21 this Sabbath I met a large concourse of People at this place I was inform'd the people behaved uncommonly bad.—When I was about to introduce my Discourse (which was from Rom. 2:41—2) I cautioned them and begged their attentions, declaring unto them the beauty of Solemnity and attention, both in the Antient and the Young.—Thus I proceeded to my Doctrine, and was much comforted in declareing unto (them) the Word of Truth.—I disremember that I saw but one Soul, but appeared to be thoughtful of Eternal things (this Man is bent to opose, having neither



Wit manners nor breeding.) One of our pious Brothers strove to Reconcile him (by reasoning) but the Satan was raised, until our bro. told him, the Law was made for the Lawless and not the Righteous, which stopped him, I believe from further Mischief. I met part of the Class and Jesus met there with us.—Rode home with Bro. Joseph Speed, Mclenburge, comfortable Accomodations for the body.

Mon. 22. this morning my mind is much Disordered, that God may burst the cloud and keep me humble, rode to my Stage where I found twice as many as I really expected; to whome I cried, the Snare is broken and we are escaped; weeping was on every side, many good and Divine impressions upon Antient and Young, but O how long will these impressions last.

Tues. 23. this morning the weather is very warm. I rode Several Miles and spoke with much inability of soul and body; after preaching, I held Love feast and a time of love indeed. Lord carry on thy works. Amen.

Wed. 24. at this time I bless God for a prospect of a revival of religion in general around this Circuit.

Thur. 25. a time of Power among Saints and Sinners.

Frid. 26. here our Dear honest Hearted bro. Seward broke the yoke of oppression from off of his poor Slaves. O that God may make it a growing work. Lord, I trust for more faith and love. This Evening Bro Minter Deacon of Brunswick Co came to Quarter with me on his way to our Q. M. It was a time of love and great power.—He shew me some of his Journals which was rendered very Satisfactory to me, his manner of Journaling gives me a more profitable idea. I must acknowledge my Journal carries but little of my own Spiritual Exercise with it, but for the future I feel resolved to Write more in full.

Saturday 27. This morning we set out for Roanoak Q. M.—a large concourse of people. Bro. Minter preached from these words of the Apostle, Grow in grace—and a time

of grace indeed. Several souls born to God. In the Application my poor Soul broke out in strong desire his perfect will to prove. O what a time of Joy to my heart it was—a heaven begun below—not a cloud did arise to darken the Skies or hide for one Moment my Lord from mine Eyes. This evening we (the preachers) stayed at old Sister Clantons—a time of Grace to our dear Souls.

Sunday 28. at 9 O'clock the love feast began, the house of the Lord was crowded with Christians, a feast of love indeed—the dear Lord soon met with us, which occurred to my Mind the year of Jubilee. Christians filled with the presence of God, Mourners a lying at the pool and Jehovah a perfecting his Saints below—in this time my Soul was filled with anxiety for the Kingdom—praise God my Soul and forget not all his Benefits.

Monday 29. rode home with bro. Cooke. this day my Soul is measurably stayed on the Lord.

Tuesday 30. Much backwardness and dullness of Soul, this state as urksome to me as Dungeon is to the poor Malefactor—bless God, when the people began to approach the House of Prayer my Soul began to breake its gloome, a few happy Souls. I Lectured from Isaiah. 35:50, a time of refreshment from the presence of the Lord. I felt as commonly happy, and feel at present bound for the Cilistial Country.

Wednesday July 1. This morning many are my afflictions of Soul. but I confide in my dear Jesus—Lord help an helpless worm that hangs upon Thee.

Thursday 2. this morning my poor heart and the Corruption thereof raised more against my Soul. I set out for my next stage, where I found a few Precious waiting Souls; I was much more comforted here than I expected. The Class seems to be unstable, and the Enemy of Souls, looses no opportunity but seeks every advantage to scatter tare and slay—in the Evening rode to Bro. B. T. where I met with my dear precious bro. H. Jones, a Deacon, and dear bro. H.

Burchet an Assistant. O how good it is for preachers and People to enjoy Christian Conferences together. Several of the Neighbouring people came out, we had prayer, the Lord wonderfully met with us, 3 or 4 Souls born to God, bless God my soul seems uncommonly drawn out after Sinners. I have late information for Bartie & Portsmouth Circuits—the Lord is at work. O how doth God work in Spite of all the united powers of Earth and Hell.—

Friday 3. this morning the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Lord give Strength for the Day.—Now my Bro's set out for their different Stages, my Soul bids them God speed. I am now Seated in my little apartment for private devotion—a small concourse of people met me, the Lord visited us with power, the Shouts of Israels camp, the cry of the wounded Spirit was heard afare off—in Family pray(er) the Lord came and Delivered one precious Soul.

Saturday 4. this Morning my Soul enjoyed sweet union with God—after riding Several Miles I found my people awaiting for me to whome I cryed, The Snare is broken and we have escaped: at this place I felt bound in Spirit.

Sunday 5 this morning I Met a Black class of about 25 Members, a time of Gods power—my Soul was much blessed indeed among my poor outcast of Men—after this rode to the Loground Ch: a large Number of Souls met me to whome I cryed, Ye will not come unto me that Ye might have life. Sinners appeared to be very hard—after preaching I took Horse for Sister Clarkes, but was turned back by a heavy rain—the people still continued within the Ch: we sang and prayed, now the Lord broke into our Souls a time of love indeed—thence I took horse the second time but got very wet, but I know not the Prejudice it may prove to my body—my Constitution is much impaired—if I never was to preach again while I live, I never should be the Man in Constitution as I have formily been. O that I had Seven more Youths I'de Spend them all (thro. grace) for God.

Monday 6. at this place the Lord hath never failed bless-



ing the people Yet.—I sang and prayed but the Lord overpowered my Soul with such a Divine Sense and Measure of his fullness, that I was incapable of preaching,—great was our Comfort and consolation—my Soul about this time feels an uninterrupted peace with my Jesus.

Tuesday 7. much hardness attend the people, at this place I felt much drawn out after their Souls. Lord revive thy work.

Wednesday 8. at 12 oclock I bury'd a Man that died on Roanoke in a Vessel.—the Evening I spoke again at Sister Peets. I strove to shew the Rise and Progress of True Christianity.—

Thursday 9. My Soul seemed to be under a Cloud, the presence of the Lord makes every Cloud to Breake, and disperses every Gloom.

Friday 10. this morning the Sea is Still great in my peace and Constitution.

Saturday 11. here I took horse for my next Stage, a few happy people, I preached from Ye know the Peace of the Lord &c—the raptures of the poor Saints was glorious to hear.

Saturday 12. this day I met a large Concours of people. I spoke from Rom. 4. down to 12. The place was awful because of the presence of the Lord—my Soul was amply imprest with an awful nearness of the Judgment—O when shall this body of dust and my Intellectual Spirit be Separated, when shall my Triumphant Soul return to God. Its my thought at the last day when the restitution of all things shall be that the Holy Sanctified spirits shall arise, our dead bodys Shall arise, every particle of our dust shall be raised a Spiritual Body. O then Shall my Redeemed Spirit cry out and Say Yonder is the Body which carried my Soul so many weary steps, yonder is the body that commenced a Capital Ware, in my members and Spirit, this is the body I was weary of, but now it is a Spiritual body, now it is a Holy body. Now it is a Glorious body. Hail thou, once Mortal but now Immortal Body. Hail, all Hail my Eternal

Silistial Household. Now I feel perfect Union with you, enter into thy Palace, and redouble thy reunion. Now I am safe and now I am happy. Not a rival of the least Impurity. 4 Souls Born to God today.

Monday 13. this morning a few words past, introduced the subject of Slavery. I was much opposed to the (same). I felt much disconsolate. Now took horse for my next stage—a number of precious dear Souls to whome I cryed Submit Yourselves therefore unto God. &c. the God of Heaven was there—crying and shouting was on every Side. One dear Soul, I hope, borne again, my Soul was overshadowed with the awful Danger that Sinners contentively risks themselves in. My Cup was a mixture. Evening rode home with bro Baugh—great is my warfare—indeed heir of this flesh and body of corruption where shall I obtain Victory.

Tuesday 14. this morning the way appears very narrow indeed and few there be that find it. Lord may the least of all thy Servants find some humble seat beneath the Brides exalted feet. Rode to my appointment where I found a large concourse of people awaiting for the word of the Lord. To whome I cryed, “Ye know the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” &c. Many deeply distressed for the Kingdom of God.

Wednesday 15. this day the Lord powerfully met with his little flock—a time of deep distress with Sinners—an overflowing time of love with the Christians, here my Soul tasted the Tree of life. O that I could drop every thought and word as in the presence of Jesus my great and Eternal Judge of Quik and Dead.

Thursday 16. this day my Soul enjoys a measure of Gods presence, it is my Study to live daily for God & the good of Souls—it is my longest grief that my life is no more useful.

Friday 17. rode to my appointment where I joyfully met with Bro. Henry Ogburn an Itinerant Preacher—he spake from these words.—Strive to enter in at the straight gate,

for many shall seek to enter in and shall not be able—a Seasonable time of Grace—this Evening I went with bro. Ogburn to see the wife of our Old Bro. O’Kelly Presiding Elder Virginia—going to prayer before we went away the Lord powerfully blest my Soul—upon our return to bro. T. Jones’s an eminent place for religion, we had a Consort of Musick, O how sweet and melodious transport’g and animating it was. but O if this be so inexpressible glorious, what hight of rapture shall we know when round his throne we meet.

Saturday 18. this Morning I parted Bro. O and out for my other oppoint—a few people met me to whome I cryed Submit Yourselves therefore to God &c. I (had) little or no liberty in speaking, only a burning fury in my Soul against blood and oppression—would to God the abominable custom was buried in Eternal forgetfulness—met the Class, a time of inspeakable joy to my Soul—this being the Eighteenth day of the Month which Night of every Month I have covenanted to watch and pray untill 12 Oclock. It was a time of uncommon Consolation to my Soul. O how little of watchery unto prayer is found among our bretheren. Lord give diligence to our dear people. Heaven drop the Divine Nature into our dear peoples Souls.

Sunday 19. this day I spoke to a lage attentive Congregation of People—a time of love in Class Meeting. I want more grace and every Qualification for the great Ministry of the Lord.

Monday 20. a few hearers—little or no light or liberty in speaking—happy Class meeting. bless the Lord for this privilege, it is worth Millions. this Evening I feel a Strength in my Soul for more of the Nature of God to be instamped within me—Lord make me wise to win souls to thee—help Lord.

Tuesday 21. this morning I feel the capital need for a closer walk with God.—rode to my next Stage—a few people Met me to whome I cryed “The Son of Man has come to



Seek and to Save that Which is Lost"—the Lord was present—a melting time in our Class Meeting—my Soul was much refreshed to find the little flock progressively moving forward.

Wednesday 22. I feel the great need of faith and love, which is Essentially necessary to bare up a Soul under all the Difficulties of this mortal Life. A few attentive people met me to whome I cryed, He that love life and See good Days let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile &c. Nothing great done here because of Unbelief—happy Class Meeting—by this time my bodily strength fails me, my Soul loaths this body of clay—Lord stir me to double my Diligence for Heaven, and for the profit of Souls.

Tuesday 23. this morning my mind is much wondring—may God, who never fails them who trust him, break every Obstruction, and let my Soul be staid up (on) his lovely breast—rode to my appt. where I met with a large concourse of people, to whom I cryed, what is man that Thou art mindful of him or the Son of man that thou so visits him—a time of power, happy Class meeting. Met the Children—their little hearts milted with sorrow, bless God for the lively prospect we have with the little ones. Lord carry it on.—evening the dear black bretheren began to sing as they ware in their cottage. I went to join them, we went to prayer—two of them prayed, much to the purpose, the Lord soon visited them in an uncommon manner—my Soul felt as if Heaven was just then at hand, bless God if I mistake not I never met with these people in my life, but God blest my Soul with them—I fear many bloody oppressors heart will get hardened thro the deceitfulness (of) that accursed Sin.

Friday 24. I feel, I thirst, I breathe for more of the mind of my Master. rode to my appointment where I found the people awaiting, to whome I cryed Our Souls is Escaped &c. Ps: 124.7. the Lord was powerfully near, the place felt awful because of his presence, my Soul was much comforted

in class,—thence I met the Dear little Children, I began with prayer, the Lord powerfully operatd upon their little Minds, a outcry began among them for Mercy and so continued untill God sweetly and visibly Delivered two of their Young souls. O the Sweet Shout that Christians Echoed to God and the Lamb for his kind presence to heal their little Children. In the Evening met the Black people. O what a time of Grace this was to my Soul, many of the dear blacks powerfully wrought upon, whose cry was for Mercy. Here God converted another little dear Child. My Joy in the Holy Ghost was inexpressible, my heart was filled with Tenderness, here my poor body began to fail me.

Saturday 25. this morning I take horse for my next Stage—on my way I met with one of our Representatives Clo J. J.: after a few sentences of political matter we turned upon Ecclesiastical matter—he soon opened his Sentiment concerning the Abominable Custom of Slavery—a great advocate for blood—we soon parted—little or no Satisfaction—So I met my people, here I visibly felt the effects of Last Evenings Mgs. I spoke from Saint Lukes G. Ch. 19.10. a great time and season of grace indeed to my Soul and I hope to many others—this Evening I rode to bro. M. M. where I met with dear bro. Paup—great was our union with God and each other while together.

Sunday 26. we parted and repaired to our Different Stages—this day great was the concours of people which I spoke unto from Rom. 2, 4. 12. very happy was the dear people in general—one Soul born again. a tolerable degree of peace now rests on my poor insignificant Soul. Lord make more watchful, more Holy, more humble, more pious, and more useful.

Monday 27. this morning my mind is much perplexed by reason of some Temporal Business. I take Horse for my next Stage, where I found considerable Number of Souls awaiting, to whome I cryed wilt thou be made whole—a sweet time among the Christians. I felt as if God would

make some of them whole in a little time. Met the Class—the Lord came—Healed one precious Soul. O how my Soul rejoice—Now I tooke Horse to Meet the presid'g Elder, for our Diocese—by the way I caled in upon one of our Bros. W. A. and took a little refreshment, thence we approached his throne to aske a blessing upon our parting—Jesus came and sweetly water'd our little Spirits.

Tuesday 28. this morning I feel in some measure discompos'd. rode with Bro. G to hear my father in the Gospel preach, (I. G.) his text was, And he came unto his own. and Satra.! the people seemed to be much blesed. after preaching Sister W. distressed much my poor Soul, by mentioning an old, infamous report over again which the Devil about 12. months ago was pleased to raise, upon me. I felt very much discompos'd that Evening thro: rode to Bro. E. B. I still felt very unhappy, much tempted that not one of the Bretheren loved me as formerly, I sunk under dejection, I could not forbare but opened my Mind and Temptations, to my dear Bretheren. I proved the Devil to be an infamous liar. In family prayer the Lord came and broke the cloud of Hell. O how Sweetly my Soul rejoiced in the Holy one of Israel. God be thanked for his Grace is freely bestowed on such a worm as me.

Wednesday, 29. Today I rode to hear my Dear old Bro. Okelly preach—a large audience of people indeed, his text in Habikuk 3.17.18.—a time of the outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord upon the people, my Soul felt a sweet peace in time of Sacrament. Rode that evening with my old bro. to Sister Ms—great was our Consolation indeed.

Thursday 30. this morning I set on Horse for my Circuit again—the rain soon began to fall—many ware my Exercises on the way—the rain continually falling for about 23 or 4 Miles. I was much lost at times not being acquainted with the way: so I was water wet. the effects of it I soon felt but the Lord ever provides—O for grace to keep me humble.

Friday 31. this Morning I feel much disordered in body



—took Horse for my next Stage—here I found many of my old Bartie Bretheren from fare to see me. I was scarcely able to preach yet God gave me strength for the day—a time of grace with the people of God. I was measurably happy but as common.

Saturday August 1. this morning I find a struggle within for more gospel grace. Took Horse for my next Stage where I found a number of precious Souls awaiting to hear the word of the Lord to whome I cryed, the Lord oppeneth the Eyes of the Blind, the Lord Raiseth them that are bowed down, the Lord loveth the Righteous—the people called Methodist, in the low Grounds of Meheren, are so prejudiced, against the Doctrine of truth Mercy and Justice, that the fire of Zeal is nearly extinct. Oppression, that hateful name, how my Soul is burdened with the accursed Sight—about this time I had a Sharpe Dagger to my heart, the narrow hearted professors a backbiting and a slandering the preachers. O that poor blind Bro. A. J. that declares to prove bro. P a lyar, and to shut the Church door against him.—Good Lord forgive him, he knows not what he does or says.—well might our Lord say will ye also go away, may God keep me humble, and take me to his Self before I ever fall into that abominable Spirit of Blood.—if ever I get rich through Slavery I shall esteem myself a Traitor, and claim a part in Hell with Judas, and the rich glutton—I feel an Holy Ambition again Blood, blood, blood. O how it cryes from the ground up to God against the poor Antichristian.

Sunday 2. rode to the Lowgions Cr. A nummerous Congregation indeed but theire blind angry prejudices dissaffected the word. I strove to speake against that Spirit of Slandering, backbiting, gain saying and Evil Speaking, one of and against another. O how the poor hand hung and no one to bare it up, neither to strengthen the feeble Ne'k. While speaking the vehemency of the weather and the weakness of my body overcame me so that I sunk in the desk—there sat one of our good pious brothers who stood up and spoke

in my place, "Help Lord for that Godly Man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the Children of Men"—Took Horse for the dear good Sister Clark (a mother in Israel) we were occasioned by a cloud to call in upon bro. Cl. where my soul was heavy oppressed with sorrow and grief to see the result of prejudice—he showed me a piece which he lately wrote against bro. P. Sermon Preached at or in the Lowgroune Church,—I will Extol thee, O Lord. for thou hast lifted me up and hast not mademy foes to rejoice, over me, thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy Names sake lead me and guide me, for into thy hand I commit Spirit, for thou hast redeemed me O lord God of Truth,—O how great is thy goodness which hast laid up for all them that fear thee. O love the Lord all ye his Saints for the Lord praiseth the faithful. Good is the will of the Lord.

Monday 3. this Morning the Lord is near at hand and not afare off—happy time indeed with the Christians, Class meeting a time of great Grace,—my Soul felt the Holy Sanctifying Streams of love, unspeakable happy, praise God of my Soul, and all and every power, every faculty, every Substance, within me praise the Lord,—In the Evening most uncommonly and powerfully Tempted—I rarely ever get very happy but soon after I feel Some thing as severe all most as the Darts of Hell to my (heart).

Tuesday 4. Took horse this Morning for my next Stage, a bout a Douzin of my near and dear Methodist Bretheren with me; it was rather late when I reached my Stage by reason of a Shower of rain. I was much comforted to find more people than I ever saw at this place before. I cried unto them the Snare is broken &c. Many and loud was the cryes of the dear people for Mercy. I dont remember whither I ever saw so general impression to the Number of people in all my Circuits. the Lord prosper it but who can tell how long this may stand. Rode home with Sister Peete. my Soul seems measurably happy, but my whole Sistem of Nature Seems to be relaxed.

many dear People attends on the word of the Lord. I spoke from Jno. 5-6. great attention rested among the people, a time of great power—weeping on every side. Persecution arose very warmly.—in all of this time I felt an uncommon love for the precious Souls of my dear fellow mortals. we had a general Struggle for and with Sinners.

Wednesday 12. this Morning I arose with prayer in my heart to God, but was much oppressed with Heaviness and Sorrow. Took horse for my next Stage, called in and breakfast with Dear bro T. L.—we joined in prayer to give God the Glory of all things. I felt something of the presence of my Master on my way to my next Stage, I felt very Solemn and Awful. about 12 oclock I reached my people awaiting.—after introducing the worship with praise, we with one consent joined in prayer—how the Lord was pleased to break into my poor Soul with power. A sweet time in Class Meeting—I was infinitely in my God. Rode home (this Evening) with dear bro. A. G. a dear Holy Man of God—as we rode, we conversed about Politicall and Spiritual Matter. we particularly observed the reality of religion, and that faithfulness was Required, as an Excellent grace or Qualification to resist Hell in all its attempts. So we freely opened hearts and minds to each other—here was a doore for every fals Imagination to be removed.—O that God may give me grace always to act to his Glory. Amen.

Thursday 13. this Morning I felt barren, the Need of a continual looking unto God.—Lord give Strength—I must now prepare to meet my Adversary and poor Sinners, to reason and fight for my Master. Took horse for my Stage, found a few dear people waiting for me. Text was Psa. 146. 8. The Lord openeth the Eyes of the blind; the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down, the Lord loveth the Righteous—Great was our consolation of Spirit. Rode home with Bro. H., his children wicked around him.—my Spirit felt in a measure bound in Soul—no place of retirement—my Soul was hungry.—I strove to pray as I sat in my chair. So



persued my business of writing—compleating my little System of Divinity.—this Eveng Bro. E. T. came to see me—much Comfort and Satisfaction in Eveng Meditation.—Retired back to the house—Family prayer came on, my Soul was uncommonly led out after the fullness of God: several young people (wicked)—O what a feeling God gave me for them, I prayed and warned them faithfully, and so lay me down to rest—but the next Morn. they arose and left the house before prayer. I hope the Spirit of God will not leave nor forsake them.

Friday 14. this Morning I felt more than commonly weak in body. As usual I fast and pray fervently this day of the weak for Zions general prosperity. I took horse with much weakness of body for Bro. T. T. where our good pious Sister Jones lives, but few people to hear me. I spak from Psa: 34—a season of grace indeed. Met the little class—the sweet presence of the Lamb was there—after preaching and class I fell into discourse with Sister S. J. about Sanctification—that blessed work—may God spread it thro America. She shew me many of her letters from our preachers & people which began to cindle flame of desire in my Soul for more of the Mind of my dear well beloved, amongst which she shewed me one of dear Bro. Okelly's Journals for the year 86—in the Evening I retired to read it and to embrace prayer and Meditation—O how was it, my Soul leaped as an heart within me for joy, whin I have clear view of the God—blest Itinerant plan, the progress of our building here below, my Soul is lost yea lost I say again, lost for language to declare the Unutterable Joy of Heaven in my heart.—O that God ever take such an insignificant dust as me, and put me into this most glorious work. Lord how shall I praise thee.

Saturday 15. this morning my poor Soul is happy yea happy beyond expression—took horse for the Next Stage, Old Bro. Easters, Sister Jones with me. Bro. Samuel Young a young convert set out to take a tower round the Circuit with me. O that God may Sancitify an infinite

Blessing to his dear Soul. Lord help me to lay the Example before him. I arrive to my Stage—a few dear people waiting for the word to whome I cryed. the Snare is broken and Satra The Lord was present with us in Class M'g. Rode home with dear Bro. C. Some comfort in my Evening Meditation—Family prayer the Lord broke in in an uncommon Manner, upon our poor lean Souls—a time of rejoicing. Lay down to rest happy. Some time in the Night—I judge near the Middle watch—I awaked in raptures of Heaven by the sweet Echo of Singing in the Kitchen among the dear Black people (who my Soul loves). I scarcely ever heard anything to equal it upon earth. I rose up and strove to join them—ah—I felt the miserably weight of oppression intolerable upon my heart—while the proud whites can live in luxury and abomination making a mock of God and his word, the African upholds him by his Swet and labour of his willing hands—and if they serve the Lord God it must be in the dead of night when they ought to be taking rest to their bodys, O blood, blood how awful it Cryes up before God, against my poor unjust professing Bro—well I must have patience—hope God will work for his own Glory.

Sunday 16. this Morning my whole System of Nature seems to be confus'd. Took Horse for my Stage—large concourse of people. I felt umch indisposed to speak by reason of my indisposition of body, but I dare to refuse—great attention while I spoke from I Peter 4, 18. None misbehaved only 2 men that ware more like Ragamuffins, than Rational Men. I hope there will be fruit found at the last day.—Rode home with my good bro. and sister J. O. I felt uncommonly poorly. therefore I must needs Glory, I will Glory of the things which concern my infirmities—for I have nothing whereof to glory outwardly. Noon will I pray unto my God for in God I have put my trust—I will not be afraid what Man can do unto me—this Evening I had a blessed Shower from Heaven as I lay up stairs musing on the Glorified State of the Saints—the dear Sister

below began singing these words—O that day when freed from living I shall see thy lovely face, Clothed in blood washed lining (sic), How I'll Sing thy Sovereign grace; it was like fire to a multitude of Powder. my Soul caught it as lightning, from thence I caught a Bro. just by and so the second untill we raised a shout to God—a time of power in family prayer. O how I felt for Sinners—O that dear Mother of mine—what a struggle I felt in my soul for her. I laid me down to rest in much pain of body.

Monday 17. this Morning as I awok I felt a rack all over my Nervous System. God give grace and Strength for the day—my labour is too hard for the strength of my body—I dont know that I have thought of living long in the sweet work but I wish to die in the cause. Yea sometime I wish to die in the Pulpit. I am now where I expect to preach today by the grace of God to a few simple hearted people—I spoke from these words, What is Man &c. Some degree of liberty but little (or) no good done. Sweet class Meeting—my Soul tasted the grace.

Tuesday 18. rode to my next Stage bro. T. & bro. O. with me, few people—I had some degre of liberty in speaking—I felt for Sinners, a time of love, bro. S. R. from Brunswick Ct. met the Class—this Eving we all had watch Night, good many people—I thought to have spoke but a little while, and so for my other bros. to have preached after me. I began a little after eight o'clock and spoke untill about half after Ten oclock. O how near the Lord laid sinners to my poor heart—Weeping was on every side yet none converted—about 2 oclock we got to rest. My soul is happy in God, sleeping or waking—Glory to my God—not a cloud doth arise to darken the skies or hide for one moment my lord from my eyes.

Wednesday 19. bro. Ogburn spoke for me—my body well nigh spent—a time of power indeed—in the evening to old Bro. Melones—here we had a season of grace.

Thursday 20. this morning I want to be swallowed up in



my God. after a little Breakfast I took a walk under the green shady Bowers and there spent the time in prayer and Meditation untill 12 Oclock, then repaired to face my enemy. To whome I cryed these be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. &c. people behaved badly. Several stayed in Class Meeting. Some join'd—here a poor black Man began to get happy with Shouting—a poor young backslider began to laugh at him, whome I sharply reprov'd and asked him if he was not ashamed and told him if it was me I would go out at the dore if I could not behave no better—he gave me a silly look grited & gnashed his Teeth and out he went. I looked for him afterwards but could not find him.

Friday 21. this Morning I feel very much oppressed with peevishness of Spirit. Rode to my next appointment, but few people—to whome I cryed Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ &c. happy Class Meeting—the Evening several blacks came to meet me, as they cannot come to preaching in the day they came out many of a night. the Lord pour'd down his Spirit on the dear people both white and black, a time of love indeed to my poor Soul. I felt God above me Soul and body.—O what a heaven I felt within.

Saturday 22. this Morning I feel uncommonly poorly by reason of the repeted effects of much and hard preaching night and day. Took horse for my next Stage—I found a few simple hearted people waiting to whome I cryed Submit yourselves therefore unto God &c. a Melting time indeed among the Christians: it was a weight of Gods love like Eternity. Sinners stood amazed and trembled, wept and pray'd, O how was it my Soul was so bountifully filled with God—this Evening rode to meet bro. Minter—with him came dear bro. H. Jones one of our travelling preachers, who was appointed to ride the Banks Ct. got part of his way, was taken Sick and returned again,—little bro. Pool with him, a young bro. that I hope my God will make a preacher—a seasonable time of grace, I hope longe to be Remembered.

Sunday 23. this Morning bro. Minter and myself met in Band—my Soul was much blest in the enjoyment of the Same. I have been often tempted, by the feeling of Nature and the many oppositions which arise from various Quarters that I was not fit to Stand or Speak for God.—that no preacher ever was so exercised and tempted as I was, but the Devil is a liar from the beginning. Every preacher finds his own trials which are many. Rode to my next Stage—Number of people—bro. Miles Green from B. Ct. Preached from these words—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord—a season of grace indeed. Meeting this Evening at bro. Droomgols. I began to speak on the goodness of God to Sinners in putting so many Privileges into their hands to make there calling and election sure—a time of power with my Soul.

Monday 24. took horse for my next Stage bro. M. G. with me. he spoke, strive to enter in at the straight gate &c. A great time of love among the people of God—here I parted with bro. M. G. and rode to my next Stage. Much soreness in my lungs.

Tuesday 25. few people—a hard Struggle for victory—at last the cloud broke and the people shouted—Lord carry on thy work among the people.

Wednesday 26. I preached at Hixes ford in the Court-house, few people No prospects—rode home with bro. Jno Myrick—happy this evening in prayer and Meditation. Family prayer—the Lord blessed almost every one in the House—a great power among the Blacks—may the Lord save them.

Thursday 27. this Morning I feel the need of faith and patience. Took horse for my next Stage, a few people, I spake from I Peter 3. 10. 11. 12. Happy time in the first prayer—a poor man sat as if he was nailed to the seat—I prayed for him sincerely—as Soon as prayer was over he took his hat and with resentment went home.—I hope God will follow him—this evening rode to bro. B. T.—met bro. H. P. from Bartie. Several of the friends and Sinners

came out to prayer—a time of the power of the Lord among the people, good News from every Quarter, the Lord's a binding Sinners to his Gospel Septre.—I bless God for the Measure of love I feel toward all Mankind for Christ Sake.

Friday 28. this day I expect to fast and pray. Preached and Exhort. with all long Sufferings, Sinners to come to God: a little time of love among the dear people of God. In the evening rode to bro. Sanreys, Bartie Circuit, Where I met a large congragation, to whome I cryed what is Man that thou art mindful of him or the Son of Man that thou so visitest him—I divided it into three heads as follows,

1. thus to Show the primevial Rectitude of Man.
2. Consider Man in his state of apostasy.

3. Advance Som Scripture Demonstrations of the visitations of God to Man to bring him unto a State of acceptance again.

I opened the first proposition in a few Sentences—In opening the Second head, the Lord poured down his Spirit upon the people—a general outcry for Mercy and the Noise of the Shout of Joy. Soon over whelm'd (by) my preaching I sat me down and sweetly drank into the sweet spirit of peace, Righteousness, Joy and love. I felt an uncommon desire for Sinners to come to the knowledge of Truth and live. O how beautiful and how pleasant an aspect I saw with my eyes—Several small children happy in the Lord, aclaping their hands with shouts of Glory to the holy one of Israel.

Saturday 29. this Morning I feel but very poorly in my body—took Horse for my Circuit & Stage again, Several of the Dear Bertheren with me,—about 12 oclock I reached my Stage where I found a few precious Souls waiting for the word of the Lord. I went up stares as usual, but could not fix my mind upon any particular portion of Scripture to preach from—I went down and introduced the Solemn worship of God with Singing and prayer—after prayer these



words run through my mind with Spirit and life—Wilt thou be Made whole? Jno. 5-6. I opened it as follows,

1. I opened the wound in the Soul.
2. Pointed out the Phisician and his means of recovery.
3. I shewed what was imployed in being made whole.

4. Inforced the important Question Wilt thou be made whole—a Small degree of Liberty in Speaking to the first and second heads of doctrine,—by this time my bodily strength failed me—this is Something that I cannot account for—when my Strength of body fails it cuts my ideas Short—we had a happy time in Class. Many sweet shouts of Glory to God: after preaching took Horse and rode to bro. Ms.—many was my exercises this Evening—I began to read the Journal of dear Bro. J. Mintern one of our travelling preachers—it was the first part of his Journal from his Cradle to Manhood and thence to conviction repentance unto Salvation, and to his Calls to preach the Gospel of Christ. It attracted my Spirit and finding Something that bore a witness in my Soul of the reality thereof, that it was rendered an Infinite blessing to my Soul. I retired among the silent groves to meet with Jesus, to read the Journal, pray and Meditate—I found time so sweet and precious, that the silent watches of that night Agt 28&9 witnesseth the Integrity of my Importunity with God. In this sweet space of time several of the Young Sisters also retired in private devotion to God, but was soon filed with raptures of praise to God, so that the sound thereof was heard afare off.

Sunday 30. this morning I find many conflicts with the Enemy. Took horse for my Stage where a large Number of souls appeared with decency—I Spoke from Jude. 19. 20. 20. In my Introduction I shewed the rise and fall of our old Church—basted the Hireling well by the grace of God.—I did not feel the least touch of the fear of men or Devils—and then proceeded to shew the authenticity of our Church, its foundation—Its maker and builder is God. 2ndly Shewed the Separatest Sensual having not the Spirit. 3rdly but

Ye beloved building up yourselves. &c. the Strength of my body was well nigh spent. I called upon one of our pious bros. to conclude but he did not speak long before the Measure of his cup was filled with Joy so that he could not stand—by this time the Lord was all over the church—I called for bro. F. C. to go to prayers. O the outpouring of the Spirit of the (Lord) was great:—the dear black people was filled with the power & spirit of God and began with a great Shout to give Glory to God—this vexed the Devil. He entered into the cruel whitemen with violence (who) eagerly ran into the Church with sticks clubs and caines—abeating and abusing the poor Slaves them outcast of Men for praising of God—O America how she groans under the burden of Slavery—Remark—a Magestrate, that has take the oath, was the Instagator of it—with his bloody hand Stretched out against God and in the hands of Satan his father strives to prevent the worke of the Lord and establishes vice and Immorality. I hope God will by Some turn of providence remove him from his office and replace another.—With bitter oaths and gnashing of teeth he put up a prayer that we the preachers was all in Some Miserable Infernal Place. I think he ought to be presented and oncommissioned!—What think Ye? I think if ever I saw happy people it was today under persecution—O the tears, screams, crys and groans for the wicked it was awful.—I looked out at the window while I stood at the desk and behold: a poor black bro. lucked me in the face, with bursting grief tears of blood, roling down his bruised face, and cried, this is what I have got for praising of my dear Jesus.—It reached my poor heart, I beged him to bare it for Christ Sake, he would Soon (if he was faithful) be out of the reach of their Clubs—O how can I rest when I see my bro unhumanely intreated. O America, America; blood and oppression—will be thy overthrow. So I took horse for my next Stage—this Evening thro Mercy I safely arrived there with Several more of the Bretheren.—When our Horses and bodys was comfortably refreshed—thence

I retired with bro. C. H. & T. C. for private devotion—the Lord met with us in a sweet manner.—We had a Smart combat with the Enemy—at last Jesus crowned bro. C. H. with victory—he cried out Victory, Victory and Jesus, I have Seen thee. Let the Earth drink my blood before ever I submit to captivatee by the Devil.—we still rasled in prayer to God—in a few minutes bro. F. C. broke thro and rejoiced in God his Saviour with Raptures unspeakable.—while the Spirit of victory bid my feeble Soul to fear not—I felt a little Heaven within—peace sweetly Harmonizing every power—O Jesus keep me more humble and give me more grace, O could I find some swifter way to gloryfy my dear Master—my every prayer diligently be employed to his New and living work. Supper was set, and then family prayer. O how Jesuses sweet lovely features attracted my whole Souls attention—I gazed upon him with unspeakable delight. O how all Nature rejoiced with my Soul. I laid me down to rest with Jesus in my Soul

Monday 31. this Morning I awoked in the sweet spirit of peace, the first thing every Morning after puting on my Appal. is to pay my vows unto the Lord. I must now lay down my pen to prepare for publick preaching.—a few people to whome I cryed ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ &c—a time of love and power among the Christians—happy class Meeting. I have so often observed the blessed Effects of the class Meeting that I highly esteem it, one of the richest pastures we enjoy—it appears if we were not to enjoy that privilege our people (would) soon be a lump or body of formality.





## A Journal and Travel of James Meacham. Part II, 1789-1797 \*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3. This morning I awoke in the hands of the Lord. After family prayer I took horse with my brother W. R. for my next stage (a new place). Few people were here. I met with Brother T. which gave me some comfort to hear from his family. I spoke from I Thessalonians 5, -19, 20, 21. Had little or no liberty and after preaching rode home with Brother A. Y. where my soul was happy. I was much fatigued, but God was near. In family prayer I felt my soul break through. O! the glory of God, his spirit it flowed. Took bed happy in the Lord, the arms of love compassed me around. Remark, wicked man died who was possessed of considerable property (speaking after the world) possesses near two hundred poor black slaves, but willed them all free, and they are now enjoying their right.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10. This morning I was powerfully drawn out in prayer after sinners. I begged the Lord to put it in their minds to come to the house of prayer. This day I strove to make some improvement of the morning in reading, riding and studying. A few people, while I was sitting by the fire in my room, looking unto God, and I felt my heart burn within. The spirit of the Lord is like the sword, when it pierces. I received it as a token that God would stand amidst his people today. In my first prayer, I know not whether I ever felt a greater agony in my soul for poor sinners or no. I said "we love him because he first loved us." O! how near the Lord stood while I was preaching. Happy class meeting, God was so near and awful to my soul that words cannot unfold it. I thought I was then a fool for Christ's sake. I could not sit, stand nor be still for a moment. Heaven was all around and Jesus within my soul. Happy in my evening's retirement time draws nigh that my poor black brother

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\* Part I., May to August, 1789, was published in HISTORICAL PAPERS, Series IX. Since that publication several note books of the author have been discovered, which were then not in the possession of the Historical Society. In fact, the MSS. is so extensive that it is impracticable to publish all of it in the HISTORICAL PAPERS. Therefore only those entries which relate to slavery, Rev. James O'Kelly, the General Conferences of 1792 and 1796, the author's views of matrimony, and his own marriage are here given.—WM. K. BOYD.

is to come in. I lay down my all and begin to work for my dear Master. Many blacks, (I have thought that I could get more blacks to hear me preach of a night than whites in the day), I spoke considerably unto them in their different stations. The supreme power from Heaven came down in the first prayer, many of the dear souls disturbed but not comforted, after speaking unto them in general, I separated them and met my class. I was much blessed while speaking unto them, joined six or seven. I have had three meetings with them and have joined twenty-three. By this time I was much exhausted, but did not lie down until about twenty minutes after twelve. The arms of love were around me.

1791

MONDAY, JULY 11. This morning my exercises are very many and painful to me, but I am fixed to live and die for God, and for souls. No preaching. I spent the day in working, and visting from house to house among the brethren in Hampton. This night my dear, old Bro. James O. Kelly, came. O! how unspeakably thankful I was, he brought me glad tidings. Zion travels and brings forth here also. We had a powerful time of it in family prayer. My Bro. D. Skinner came over with them also—a pious man of God. We had sweet counsel together.

TUESDAY, JULY 12. Bro. O'Kelly preached a powerful sermon from John 9—35-36-37-38. A solid move among the souls of this people—in the evening we had prayer. The Lord came and smote sinners to the ground. By this time the report of our meeting began to reach the ears of the people who came by dozens, but would not come into the house. Bro. O'K. spoke considerably unto them, at the door first and then again at the window, this time was an alarm to this town.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13. We, the preachers, Bro. O'K and Bro. Ellis, took our leave of the brethren for Yorktown. Bro. O'Kelly preached to a beautiful company of people from St. James 8-20. Dined with Mr. Messak, gentleman. Then walked up to old sister Smith's and administered the sacrament. From there rode to Bro. Wm. Ellis and preached to a crowded house of people. The people truly trembled, the place was very



awful. Rode from thence to Williamsburg and had rest after riding forty English miles and preaching twice. Slept in peace.

THURSDAY, JULY 14. Here Bro. John Robertson and Bro. Benjamin Brown. Bro. O'Kelly preached in the capitol to a numerous crowd of souls from John 1—11-12, and wept over them. Took his leave of them for Hampton again. After I dined I took horse for my nativity and had some difficulty in crossing James River, but through Providence I crossed about half after six o'clock. I rode till within the night to Bro. Piland's in a surrey. I am very poorly indeed. I am naught but a poor worm of the earth.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20. Rode to my stage under many concords of mind. I spake from Revelation 3-21. I had light and liberty, and was led particularly to explode slavery. I am poorly and have felt for several days as if every sermon would be my last, but the Lord doth strengthen me uncommonly. Rode home with Bro. W. R.—a good place. Dear sister R. is a dear soul.—Bro. R. likewise. I am happy here, temptations a few but they are common. Blessed in prayer quiet in public, the Lord be forever praised.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. I am very poorly, though I visited some of the brethren from house to house, prayed and instructed them. In evening prayer-meeting I exhorted. The Lord brought one soul to the knowledge of the truth. We had a good time in general.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3. Preached to a small company of serious people from Daniel 6-16—some liberty, good meeting. Rode to Hampton, prayer-meeting here tonight, a good time but I am distressed, I am perplexed, anti-pedo-baptists are after my lambs, they try to steal them from me as the wolf. They howl by day and by night. I fear I shall be under the necessity of publicly exposing them, but this is very disagreeable to me.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10. My mind is much embarrassed. I feel my dreariness of soul. I mourn, O! what shall I do for more of God. Baptized a black woman's child. Who laughed at me while I was talking to her. I felt rather a scruple in my mind whether or not I must baptize the child, considering that it was not legally begotten, and she so greatly

wicked, but she promised me to try and do all for its spiritual good that she could; so I baptized it. Rode to Charles City. New chapel, found a good congregation, to whom I spoke from Hebrew 11-6. Rode home with sister Sally Drake.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13. I preached today at Bro. Power's from Revelations 3-21. I had a sweet time in my own soul. Some sinners seemed to be affected, here I received two letters, one from Bro. Stephen Davidson, an elder, who spoke largely upon the conduct of a preacher who can give up the ministry for a woman, and can delight more in a lady's chamber than in his studies. It struck me with awe. The second was from D. Suthell, a preacher in the South District of Virginia, who informed me of Bro. J. N. and Bro. W. H.'s mourning which pierced me through. Rode and dined with Bro. Atkinson, and had prayer and rode home with my good brother and sister Austin where I am to preach tomorrow, God willing. It is good to be here, no children, nothing to tempt a preacher, but all to edify him. We had a sweet time this night.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20. Not well but took horse for Richmond to see and hear old Bro. James O.'K. preach. About four o'clock I safely arrived and found the dear old soul in his room well and happy (but lost my great-coat by the way) which is strange to me, when I missed it I did not feel the least change of mind. I was truly glad and thankful to meet my dear old Bro. O'Kelly. He is like a dear father to me. We had a most precious time of it. His large diocese flourishes generally. Bro. W. H. is certainly broken the law of celibacy. Well the Lord knows what is best.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3. As I rode to meeting I conversed with a poor woman of our community respecting her cruelty with her poor slaves, but could not do anything with her. She persisted in her own way and testified she would still do the same if they would not work. I told her if she would that she might not expect to continue in communion with us. She said she could serve the Lord out as well in. I preached on a funeral occasion to a large number of people from Ecclesiastes 9-10. But little impression. Here met me my Dr. Little and Bro. Christopher Mooring on his way from his father's to his circuit again, we rode to Bro. William Parish's and dined; then rode to Bro. Broddenhaurs. I am not well.

Several came out tonight and Bro. Mooring gave an exhortation. We had a precious time in mutual converse.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11. Rode to meeting and spoke to the people from Psalms 124-7. No liberty. The people some affected. A good class meeting. Rode to Cumberland and dined with Mr. Robert Hayes, a good friend to me. This night I preach to the poor blacks, who hath built there a good meeting-house, from Daniel 6—16. I felt much with and for them, poor creatures, how affected they were, great power among them. Their kindness excuses their abilities. How they bestowed their presents of pears and apples. I felt the Lord to be with me all this day. Happy, Happy.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2. I rode early to visit the poor condemned malefactors, three white men to be executed Friday. They are probably distressed, but from what motive I can't tell unless it is for fear of death, more than Hell. It is truly lamentable that men will serve the devil until they end their lives at the gallows. O! this gallows repentance is dangerous. Rode from there to my stage and found a few women to whom I spoke from 1 John, 4-19. We had a good time. Rode this night to see my old dear Brother B. Weedon, and found him happy but several of the family sick.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27. Feel poorly, but set out very early for Richmond to meet Bro. O'K. where I met with several of the dear preachers. Bro. W. M. from Amelia, Bro. O. B. from Manchester, Bro. J. H. from Hanover, we went to the state-house, and found two of the old clergy, who would not give place. One of them preached from these words, "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." After him Bro. O'Kelly preached from John 5—40. From thence we rode to Mr. Allen's about ten miles. Bro. O'Kelly preached from Psalms, 19—this night, a time of sorrow to me. I am so needy and have so little.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10. Rode early to Hanover town to Q. M. Bro. O'Kelly preached from Roman 5-14. I concluded with exhortation and prayer, little or no stir among the people yet. I hope good was done. After preaching we all dined at Bro. Anderson's. The sisters sent up to know if we would come down and pray for them. We did so, and bless the Lord. I thing I never saw a sweeter power in my life.

O how sweet my poor soul was filled. I rolled on the floor, and sang and praised my dear Lord Jesus. I was happy, happy, happy beyond all expression.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11. Sweet sacrament. Many people. Bro. O'Kelly preached. The Lord owned his words, I believe this night. Bro. O'Kelly and myself rode up to my good old sister Peters', fifteen miles. This place is good for the poor preachers, happy in family prayers.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25. CHRISTMAS DAY. My poor soul is pained to hear the children of the devil shooting. Rode very early to the conference to hear the experiences of the dear preachers, but it was nearly over before I got there. There were six deacons ordained, three travelling and three local. Mr. Asbury preached from John, 4--14. A very great sermon, indeed I believe it had the powerful effect upon the congregation. Bro. Marvel gave a warm exhortation. Likewise after him Bro. O'Kelly. The Lord let down his awful power, and soon I could not hear him speak, being drowned with the cries and shouts of the people. Then came on the communion. Fifty preachers I saw surround the Lord's Table. In this time a precious dear woman, sister Whitehead, rose up and begged the preachers to excuse her, she was weak and a poor woman, but she was awfully impressed with grief and that was almost more than she could bear up under. She said when she turned her eyes upon the young sisters and saw them catching after the modes of fashion of this world which passes away, backsliding from God and wounding his cause, she could scarcely bear up under her grief, and what was worse than all her poor dear young preachers, some of them would be following the fashions of the wicked world that ought to be examples of the flock. Numbers looking at them and justifying themselves by such and such preachers and something else added with. They would stand in the pulpit and explode the cursed practice of slavery, and then they themselves would marry a young woman who held slaves and keep them fast in bloody slavery. Members who have been professors of the religion of Jesus Christ for ten or twelve years would come to me and apparently be as happy as saints in Heaven, and follow them home and you will see their slaves in the field and kitchens cruelly oppressed, half starved, and nearly naked. O! my



Lord, is this the religion of my adorable master Jesus? How can I keep grieving over these cruel oppressions who are in error. And I fear they will be slaves to the devil in Hell forever. So the dear woman swooned away being greatly exhausted. I hope this lecture may never be forgotten.

1792

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10. On my way to Hampton I called upon one Mr. Goodwin, who appears to be under a deep concern for his future state. Told me that he had offered to the Baptists, and that they thought him a fit subject for their admission, but upon their asking him his faith, they would not receive him as he did not believe in Reprobation and Election, he is very desirous of hearing of us preach. I rode to Hampton. I found my old pain to return, the Lord assist me to bear up and not give way to over much sorrow. But I am of that spirit and nature, I cannot help it; it appears sometimes as if it would be my ruin; but I try to trust in the Lord, may I continue so to do all my days.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22. This morning I arose and paid homage to the Great I Am. I felt his divine presence,—after prayer in the family I rode to my stage and found a pretty congregation to which I spoke from Thessalonians 1, 7, 8, 9. I had the divine presence of the Lord, the people felt the word, a precious time in class, my sould was powerfully drawn out after the prosperity of Zion,—here I and two of the poor women, whom I suspended yesterday, who informed me, that each party is reconciled to each other again which gives me unspeakable satisfaction.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27. I feel very poorly in both body and mind. I have to preach a funeral sermon over two of the dead today. The Lord assist me to be faithful. Preached today to a large congregation of people from St. John 11, 25, 26, the people seemed effected, this day I saw the covering of two graves; in about nine days I have stood at the graves of seven persons, and warned sinners to prepare for the last space of Eternity. Baptized one child. This night I preach from Roman 6, 22. The Lord poured out his blessed spirit. The poor blacks were much engaged. I baptized one child, my

spirit sinks very low at present, but I give myself unto prayer. The Lord is my only help, Glory, Glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6. Rode with C. S. M. to Wm. Armistead's in N. Kent, where we met with a few people. M. preached about one-half hour to them. We had a sweet refreshment in time of class. In family prayer God was with us in power. O! how terribly I was impressed with the enormous weight of that gaulding yoke of oppression. The people below had been alarmed, they say by an insurrection of the poor blacks on the eastern shore, but on their trial and examination it appears it was only the surmisings of the devil in the oppression. Their conscience must indeed vastly alarmed them, and represents much shocking horror enslaving so many thousand of poor men and women, that they formed such strong and plain consequences of the continuation of this cursed cruelty that it was supposed to be then the very case, and so brought numbers to trial. But what was made appear? Nothing but a guilty conscience on the side of the oppressor. O! if they feel such horror here, what will they feel when stood before a just God. O! how soon the cursed venom began to fly against the poor Methodists and Quakers when the report of an insurrection began to spread. Some were for hanging the preachers on a tree. O! what an honorable death this would have been for a preacher of the Gospel had God seen it best.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27. I preached to a very large weeping congregation from Galatians 3, 29, and spoke much to the feeling and experiment of the people which greatly effected their precious time in class. Several subscribed to the petition of the Humane Society to the Assembly for the gradual abolition of slavery. I rode and tarried this night with a poor sick penitent man, whom I hope God will bless with a sense of his love. I spoke here to the blacks at night who seemed affected.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29. Early we rode to Leesburg and took some refreshments from thence to old sister Owen's, Meriland state; in time family prayers the Lord visited my sould that I could scarcely stand.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30. My feelings have been much hurt this day by some expressions which dropped from the preach-

ers, but I must bear it with patience. We dined this day at Hues, from thence rode to Baltimore town, and was appointed to lodge at Bro. Isaac Bassett's with my affectionate Bro. D. Southall, where we have a little room and bed with other necessities as my heart could wish.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31. I have done some temporal business and visited some of the preachers. My mind is stayed on God. I wish to do His will in all things. This night Bro. P. E., my presiding elder, preached from Amos 2—7. Meeting was closed with prayer.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1. The Bishops safely arrived and Conference was opened. Many were the debates, and but little done. My mind is weary now and what will it be by the time our Conference is at an end. This night Bro. T. T. presiding preacher from Kentucky, preached from Ephesians 5—8. Many pointed truths were delivered, a larger attentive congregation I never saw in a town before. I think that the singing of the Methodists in Baltimore exceeds anything and everything of the kind I ever hear before. It appears to be the nearest relation to Heaven of anything ever before presented to my ear.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2. My mind hath been crowded with the business of Conference. Our business goes on very slowly, and I am weary. I hear preaching two times every day. The Methodists in this town are truly remarkable for piety and plainness.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3. Business is yet slow. My mind more and more fatigued. I heard preaching at the Point this night from Bro. G. W. from I Tim. 1—15, Bro. L. C. and Bro. I. C. exhorted. But little good was done.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4. Dr. Coke from Romans 8—16 to a crowded number of souls at three o'clock, and O'K. preached to near two thousand souls from "Lord increase our faith." At six, Bro. H. W. preached to a greater number. My soul hath heard much preaching, Lord help me to improve.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5. Conference is yet having the debates now in hand. This debate is—shall the preacher have an appeal to the District Conference if he thinks himself aggrieved by the station which the Bishop gives him. The debate is lengthy. It has been near twenty-four hours, and not yet de-

terminated. Our debate is still confined, and the time of preaching came on, we all repaired from this house to the Rev. Wm. Auterbine's church, who is called the Dutch Methodist. After near two hours' debate, it was put to ballot, and the large majority gave it to the Bishop. I am but poorly in body or mind, yet I hope on God.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6. The Conference met according to adjournment. The list was called and business proceeded to. Bro. O'K. was absent but sent a letter to the Conference, it was read and many tears shed. A committee of three elders was chosen, Bro. T. G., Bro. F. B., and Bro. R. S., to visit him to try and prevail with him to come into Conference again, but could not. He was pointedly opposed to the Bishop having that power contended for. It went against him and he has taken his farewell of Conference. I think my poor heart scarcely ever felt the like before. I could not refrain from weeping deeply. I hope God will still direct aright, and give us our dear old Bro. and good fellow back again. If he comes not back I fear bad consequences will accrue.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7. The house now begins to advance in doing business. My mind is still pained, but God is Love. I am given unto my God and His works, but O! to what little purpose do I live.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8. Our business goes on tolerable. I am more and more pained, Lord help me. Bro. O'K., Bro. W. M., Bro. I. W., Bro. T. R., and Bro. R. H. have all left Conference and returned home. The question is now shall there be a delegated conference which is only the council baptized over again into a Conference. I hope this motion will not pass, as I am aware of the result.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9. My soul waits to prove what is that good and acceptable will of God. This morning the delegated Conference was put to vote and there was but three votes for a delegation. I bless my God for it.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10. My soul waits on Jesus, but not enough. I feel my body very much disordered, but give up all to God.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11. I am still in pain, and so little comforted at this conference I know not that I shall ever be at another. I have heard four sermons this day, I am full of



preaching, but I fear that I did not digest it aright.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12. Weary and sick, I want to get away, not because my brethren are not kind to me here, they are more to me than I could expect. I hope the Lord will amply compensate them for their trouble with and labor of love for me.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13. I am still sick, but not weary of the Lord's service. He is my trust, in Him is my stay.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14. I am still poorly and pained in mind, but to whom shall I go for succor or refuge, but unto the Lord. This night I heard old Bro. I. Ellis preach a very good sermon. Here I met with a treatise which I never saw before, the sin Annanias.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15. I am fixed to seek for more of God. Lord assist me in this great work. This night Conference broke. Preaching began at candle-light. Dr. Coke preached, Bro. Sampson exhorted. The wicked hath a very fine elegant house sitting within about eight feet from our meeting-house, they had a great ball this night, but the Lord broke it up by pouring out his spirit upon the people. Under preaching eight or nine souls were converted to God and the ball was ruined. Bless my God for all the good that is done on earth.

1793

THURSDAY, MARCH 28. I rode to my old Bro. Edges' in the neighborhood of R. Creek where I met with many of the brethren who have separated from us, to whom I spoke from Jude 19—20-21. I had liberty and felt great love to them. I pity them from my own heart. Well, I am if possible more than ever fixed to live and die the same in profession the same as from the beginning.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29. I preached at Bro. Mann's to eight or nine souls from Psalms 34—17, and had the presence of the Lord; after preaching I talked considerable with John Chapelle who is one of the members of the Republican Conference and preached. He appears predetermined to persevere in his dangerous practice. I find my spirits very much hurt by talking with him. We had some close conversations. I wish Satan may not obtain his ends in these people. O! My soul come not

thou into their secrets not into their assembly, Lord help me to bear up.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9. About eleven o'clock I set out for Mr. Almond's twenty-five miles. I missed my way twice, but safely reached my good Mr. Almond's about the setting of the sun. I found both he and his kind pardner very unwell. Here I hear the fatal news which I have for two weeks feared. All the classes for two weeks round hath met and are predetermined not to be governed by our rules of discipline. Neither to accept of us the travelling preachers as to govern them, but hath set apart the first day of March, next, as the time for all preachers and people who are of a republican spirit to meet at McGehee's barn in Prince Edward County in order to form a code of laws to govern themselves by and then to call their man to enforce their rules and preach unto them. I am in pain, what to do I know not. They say we may come and preach to them, but I shall heed them not, neither may I expect any support from them. This will not do for us. I cannot feel willing to visit them on those terms. Lord undertake for us, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we pray Thee to receive us again, must Zion fall, will not the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob help us.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9. I have no appointment to preach today, but I hope to improve my time, Mr. M. and myself retired out into the granary, and while we were there, a poor black man came in and fixed his eyes upon me and said—"What have you got for me." I told him I had some good counsel for him if he would but accept of it. He said that is what I want. So I proceeded to teach him the way of salvation by faith. He stood very attentive, the water streamed from his poor eyes from three streams. I think his poor heart was truly sensible of what I said respecting Christ being formed in him the hope of glory and so he left us begging our prayers.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22. The Lord is my refuge. Brother W. rode several miles with me to direct me on my way to my appointment, and I conversed largely and freely with him on many things. He expressed himself as being greatly satisfied with respect to the relations I gave him of the conduct of the General Conference. Also we talked on slavery, but he can-

not see as he ought, yet he is not as many others are, full of prejudice. I preached today at Mr. Cardwell's to a pretty serious attentive people, from John 8, 12. I had much comfort and I believe the word had effect upon many. The Lord gave us a divine shower in time of class meeting.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22. I preached in Pride's Church (Amelia) to a few people from First Thessalonians 2—13. I had but little liberty, yet the Lord was with us in time of class meeting. We had a very happy time here. I heard from the Republican Conference. They have drawn up a petition to send to William Asbury to have their grievances removed. Gross inconsistency, after having published themselves in the Gazette as being formed together in a formal protest against prelatical government and also against William Asbury and his adherents. Reject the church governments with the preachers, and now to petition that power against which they absolutely rebel is an inconsistency and something which I cannot reconcile to my reason without an imposition. I tarried this night at Mr. Good's.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25. I rode fifteen miles and preached to the people who have separated themselves from original Methodism from Luke 11-28, but felt as if I had been preaching to mine enemies. I tarried this night with Samuel White. His wife is a dear woman. She weeps for poor Zion. She is greatly distressed because of the rebellious ones, and told me that she was afraid to open her mouth one way or the other. Her husband has left us and she is compelled to go with him.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26. This morning I have talked pointedly to Bro. White. He is a blind man to truth. I opened as well as I could (to him) the nature and plan of our church from which he has revolted, but he was dull (or wilful) of apprehension, so I left him and rode and preached at Bro. Mann's from I Peter 3,—7, 8, 9, 10. I was pointed and wish God may direct the arrow. From there I rode fifteen miles to Bro. Reese's but was very poorly indeed, fasting, preaching and riding so far greatly effects my head and nerves. My poor soul feels barren and empty.

1796

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11. Not finding passage by water to

Baltimore, set out on horseback and rode till late within the night. This week I have rode regularly on my way toward Baltimore.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19. I reached Baltimore and found a number of preachers present. My lodging is at Bro. Fonardon. A good man and a local preacher, the Lord be my guide.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20. Conference met and proceeded to business. We assembled with peace and harmony. My soul longeth for the living God. Dr. Coke preached this evening.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21. Our business continues in peace and harmony.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22. Peace overspreads our conference. May the Lord continue it.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23. I heard several sermons this day. William Asbury preached at three o'clock. My soul was filled with gratitude.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24. The Lord, the blessed Lord of the universe, is with us. O! may we all keep an eye to His glory.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25. Our business goes on but slowly. My mind is much agitated, but I trust in God, my Savior.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26. May this with all and every other day of my life be for God. We dispatch business but slowly, but I hope what we do may be successful for the Lord.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29. The small-pox has broke among the preachers, May the Lord keep poor me from the hands of death. I wish God to have my heart.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30. The Lord is at work. Numbers have been converted at this Conference. There is scarcely a sermon but some one is said to find the Lord.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31. I am very poorly in body and mind. I hear here so many new objects hourly striking my observation that I find it hard to keep my mind where it ought to be. The work of the Lord goes on with some regularity and success. Many souls have been converted during the sitting of this Conference. Our next General Conference is to be held here in November 1800. Perhaps not one-third of the ministers who compose this Conference will live to sit in the next.



O! may my soul stay on its guard, and be found ready to go whenever the Lord shall call.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3. I obtained leave to leave town for Virginia, but my beast, not having been brought into town time enough, did not go out, but I gave myself up to God, and went and heard Dr. Coke preach a good sermon.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4. I rode out to Sister Dorsey's where I heard Bro. Watcoate preach, Dr. Coke and William Asbury exhort. There are twelve of us tarried together here this night.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5. I rode throught the federal city, where I saw part of the capitol, a very fine, elegant building, but the President's house far exceeded every idea of a house I had ever seen for fineness. I tarried in Georgetown at Col. Bell's, where I was very kindly entertained.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10. I am told that a local preacher has stopped my appointment for today by reason of a Baptist meeting in the neighborhood to which he wishes to go, so I do not propose attending at his house. I went to hear the Baptists myself. If I had have gone by myself I really should have returned without hearing him preach, as he waited so very late before he began to preach. One half hour past one o'clock, however, he preached about a half hour when he begun, it was the same sermon, I hear wherever I go to hear any of that fraternity preach, a cold dry experience as old as the first Baptists I ever heard preach. I do not speak with an intention to ridicule an experience of Grace, but they never go any further than their doctrine of divinity than to tell out an experience and then sing. Then all who ever experienced that straight away to Heaven with fear of falling out by the way. I returned to Bro. Pritchett's but am very poorly in body and very uneasy in my poor mind, nothing but the smiles of my sweet Jesus can cheer my poor drooping spirits.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23. I have no appointment for preaching today, but hope and pray God to preach to my poor heart and fill my sould with humiliating Grace.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10. I preached to a few at Bro. Meredith's from Psalms 34—11, and had a good meeting class meeting. Am very poorly, but in the evening spoke to the blacks who appeared happy in God, indeed both white and

black rejoiced greatly so that the noise of joy was heard afar off.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26. We had a sweet time at Sacrament, Bro. W. preached a close sermon from "And great shall be the peace of thy children." He beared close upon the practice of slavery. I expect many were offended. We then rode to Bro. Paups and rest in the fear of God. I am very poorly in body, but want more of the Lord.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10. I preached at the place where our Q. Meeting was. I suppose old Bro. Whatcoate gave great offense on the Lord's Day at our Q. M. He touched largely and closely upon the accursed evil and practice of slavery, but the devil will make a noise when his head is bruised. The Lord was with us this day, blessed be his name, may the flame spread through the country.

1797

MONDAY, JUNE 5. Many are my afflictions but I hope out of them all God will deliver me. This blessed night about nine o'clock I was united in wedlock to Miss Polly Seward, daughter of John Seward, of Brunswick, state of Virginia, by the Rev. John Easter. I think God has owned this union which was so sealed with the solemn ceremony. Bro. W. Spencer, whom I call Jonathan, was so kind as to give me his company and attendance. We had sweet prayer and thanksgiving together unto the blessed Lord. I thank my God we had an answer to prayer. Many shouts were sent up to Heaven. It was a solemn time with me, may the Lord bless us, and give us the sweet guidance of his Holy Spirit.



